



2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

For the period January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Boerne to provide safe drinking water.

(830) 248-1538

Water Sources:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Where do we get our drinking water?

Our drinking water is obtained from SURFACE AND GROUND water sources. In 2014, about 47% of our water was purchased from the Western Canyon Regional Water Supply Project (WCRWSP) sponsored by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. The source of water for the WCRWSP is CANYON LAKE. About 30% of our water came from BOERNE LAKE, another surface water source. The remaining 23% of our water came from groundwater wells in the TRINITY GROUP aquifers. These aquifers are known locally as the Cow Creek, Lower Glen Rose and Upper Glen Rose aquifers. Thus, 23% of our water came from groundwater sources and 77% came from surface water sources in 2014.

The TCEQ completed an assessment of our source water and results indicate that some of our sources are susceptible to certain contaminants. The sampling requirements for our water system are based on this susceptibility and previous sample data. Any detections of these contaminants may be found in this Water Quality Report. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact the City of Boerne at 830-248-1538.

For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer available at the following URL: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/gis/swaview>

Further details about sources and source water assessments are available in Drinking Water Watch at the following URL: <http://dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>

SPECIAL NOTICE

Some people in the general population may be more vulnerable to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; persons who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

DEFINITIONS

The following table contains scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)

The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)

The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level Goal (ALG)

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL)

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Average Level: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average or monthly samples.

ABBREVIATIONS

NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units (a measure of turbidity)

MFL – million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)

pCi/L – picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

ppm – parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L), or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

ppb – parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L), or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water

ppt – parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

mrem/yr – millirem per year (a measure of radiation)

NA: Not applicable.

ALL drinking water may contain contaminants.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). For more information on the taste, odor or color of your drinking water, please contact the City of Boerne at 830-249-9511.

About The Following

The information that follows lists all the federally regulated or monitored contaminants which have been found in your drinking water. The U.S. EPA requires water systems to test for up to 97 contaminants.

Regulated Contaminants

Total Coliform

Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

MCLG	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1	0	0	N	Naturally present in the environment.

*Two or more coliform found samples in any single month.

Regulated Contaminants (cont.)

Turbidity

Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of the water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.

Results on Self-supplied Water (Water from Boerne City Lake) - 2014

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.2 NTU	N	Soil Runoff.

95PT (95% of the monthly measurement of Turbidity). 100% of measurements were below the limit of 0.3 NTU.

Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil Runoff.
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Additional Results on Purchased Surface Water (Water from Canyon Lake) - 2014

Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.13	N	Soil Runoff.
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95PT (95% of the monthly measurement of Turbidity). 100% of measurements were below the limit of 0.3 NTU.

Lowest monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	N	Soil Runoff.
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Inorganic Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2014	Barium	0.0552	0.0239-0.0552	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Fluoride*	1.55	0.1-1.55	4	4	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.

*Fluoride compounds are salts that form when the element, fluorine, combines with minerals in soil or rocks. The City of Boerne does not add fluoride to its drinking water.

2014	Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2.52	0.04-2.52	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Selenium	4.8	0-4.8	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.

Nitrate Advisory—Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level

Systems must complete and submit disinfection data on the Surface Water Monthly Operations Report (SWMOR). On the Annual Water Quality Report, the system must provide disinfectant type, minimum, maximum and average levels.

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2014	Free Chlorine	0.88	0.3	1.6	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

Regulated Contaminants (cont.)

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Collection Date	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2014	Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	23.0	4.9-49.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2014	Total Trihalomethanes (TTHm)	57.0	19.4-85.7	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

The Range of Levels Detected is based on individual samples, whereas the Highest Level Detected and MCL are based on the averages of individual samples. No violations occurred because the Highest Level Detected averages did not exceed MCL.

Lead and Copper

Date Sampled	Contaminant	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2013	Copper	1.3	1.3	0.227	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems.
2013	Lead	0	15	2.91	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. This water supply is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components.

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides

Collection Date	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2014	Dalapon	1.5	0-1.5	200	200	ppb	N	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way.

Fecal Coliform

Reported monthly tests found no fecal coliform bacteria.

Radioactive Contaminants

Collection Date	Contaminant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit of Measure	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
2013	Gross Alpha excluding radon and uranium	2.0	2.0-2.0	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Combined Radium 226/228	3.9	2.7-3.9	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
2013	Uranium	1.7	1.7-1.7	0	30	ug/l	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Secondary and Other Constituents Not Regulated (No associated adverse health effects.)

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concern. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Collection Date	Constituents	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Likely Source of Constituent
2014	Calcium	68.2	39.2	86.9	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2014	Chloride	24.7	16	39	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2014	Copper	0.0065	0.0021	0.0122	1.0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
2014	Hardness as Ca/Mg	281	167	376	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2014	Magnesium	26.97	16.9	38.7	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2014	Manganese	<0.004	<0.001	0.0132	0.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2014	Nickel	0.0019	0.0013	0.0028	NA	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2014	pH	7.3	6.9	7.9	NA	units	Erosion of natural deposits.
2014	Sodium	11.86	9.58	14.9	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; byproduct of oil field activity.
2014	Sulfate	63.86	24	100	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2014	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	188.31	100	289	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2014	Total Dissolved Solids	391.57	243	496	1000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

CITY OF BOERNE
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Consumer Confidence Report

Our Drinking Water Meets or Exceeds All Federal (EPA) Drinking Water Requirements.

This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. The analysis was made by using the data from the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required tests and is presented in the attached pages. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

Public Participation Opportunity

Date: **Tuesday, August 4, 2015**
Time: **5:00 to 5:30 p.m.**
Location: **Boerne Council Chambers
Police/Municipal Court Complex
124 Old San Antonio Road
Boerne, Texas**
Phone Number: **830-248-1538**

To learn about future public meetings (concerning your drinking water) or to request to schedule one, please call us.

En Español

Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al tel. (830) 249-9511 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

www.boerne-tx.gov